

# Climate Pollution Reduction Grants

## Meaningful Engagement: Update and Technical Resources

**August 30, 2023**

## *Housekeeping Notes:*

- Mics are automatically muted for all registrants and all cameras are turned off
- Please enter all questions in the chat box and “like” any questions already asked that you would also like answered. Questions will be answered during the Q&A session.
- *Note: We cannot answer any questions regarding the implementation grants at this time.*
- Slides and links to additional resources will be shared after the training with training registrants.
- [CPRG Training, Tools and Technical Resources](#): Slides, Recordings, and Additional Q&As not covered in Training Recordings posted here after the training

# Disclaimer

*The information contained in this presentation is intended for the sole purpose of providing tools and technical assistance to planning grant recipients under EPA's Climate Pollution Reduction Grants program. Specific questions on how this information relates to a particular grantee's deliverables should be directed to that grantee's EPA Project Officer.*

*Nothing contained in this presentation should be construed as creating new requirements beyond those already enumerated in the CPRG planning grant program guidance or the terms and conditions that apply to the grantee.*

# Agenda

- What is meaningful engagement?
- Incorporating Meaningful Engagement into Planning
- Meaningful Engagement with Communities
- Examples of Effective Community Engagement
- CPRG Technical Assistance Forums

# What is meaningful engagement?

- **Incorporating the community as a partner in decision-making**
  - People have an opportunity to participate in decisions about activities that may affect their environment and/or health
  - Community concerns will be considered in the decision-making process
  - Decision makers will seek out and facilitate the involvement of those potentially affected
- **What are the results of well-designed meaningful engagement?**
  - Increases the likelihood that projects or solutions will be widely accepted
  - Produces more effective solutions
  - Empowers and integrates views from people of different backgrounds
  - Builds local networks of community members that are committed to helping make the project and solutions come to fruition

# Incorporating Meaningful Engagement into Planning

- **No two approaches to meaningful engagement will be exactly alike.**
  - Approaches will uniquely depend on:
    - Existing levels of engagement with affected communities
    - Level of community interest
    - Resources available
    - Other community-specific factors
- **Meaningful engagement is a driver for project success.**
  - Well-designed strategies not only lead to increased community support but also help provide more effective community-oriented solutions

# Recap: Best Practices

- Build upon existing outreach and engagement practices
- Identify concerns of the community & potential solutions
- Establish and maintain (for all community partners involved/potentially affected) positive relationships
- Manage and resolve conflict throughout the engagement process
- Create a community engagement strategy
- Implement the community engagement strategy
- Gather feedback to evaluate the effectiveness of the community engagement strategy
- Drive the process to maintain ongoing engagement

# Setting the Groundwork

- **Understanding unique community needs and past engagement efforts**
  - Leverage existing relationships with community partners and organizations to ensure diverse perspectives are represented
  - Confer with members of the community to identify and prioritize knowledge gaps, community-specific concerns, aspirations, and any shared goals
  - Consider what entities will be essential in the decision-making process to enact change
  - Create a set of standard operating procedures on communication norms with your community members, partners, and other interested parties

# Establish and Maintain Positive Relationships

- **Harnessing community expertise**
  - Ensure that all materials use plain writing and are available in English and other languages as appropriate
  - Ensure that outreach activities provide sufficient background information
  - Maintain honesty and transparency in the process by explaining limitations in agency authority, opportunities for community feedback, and clear explanations for how community input has been or will be incorporated into the final product or why it cannot be incorporated

# Manage Conflict

- **Develop accessible, effective, and inclusive methods of communication and decision-making**
  - Establish clear roles and responsibilities to organize and provide structure to decision-making
  - Establish a feedback process to incorporate continuous and authentic input regarding adjustments to your engagement strategy
  - Consider the potential need for a facilitator to provide support with difficult conversations or strained community relationships

# Create a Community Engagement Strategy

- **Proactive approaches to community engagement and risk mitigation**
  - Develop a strategy with community involvement which outlines the benefits and disbenefits that the local community will receive and defines when and how community engagement will occur throughout and beyond the entirety of the project
  - Identify and manage actions that could limit the effectiveness of the community engagement process which can include public criticism, lack of participation, as well as community confusion

# Establish Consent

- **Driving community involvement and consent**
  - Host consultations on the final draft Community Engagement Strategy and inform communities, ensuring the opportunity to provide feedback before finalizing
  - Empower communities by accepting feedback often and through multiple avenues including written and oral comments

# Implementing the Community Engagement Strategy

- **Ensuring successful implementation of the Community Engagement Strategy**
  - Build momentum
  - Inform additional community partners and decision-makers of the Community Engagement Strategy and emphasize alignment of project and community goals
  - Collaborate with local governing bodies to increase support and ensure feasibility
  - Consider piloting elements of the engagement strategy with community members to gauge early successes

# Gather Feedback to Evaluate Effectiveness

- **Consulting with community members on progress and process**
  - Identify obstacles to greater public participation and engagement
  - Identify areas of improvement for future projects and develop lessons learned
  - Ensure clear and measurable outcomes are being properly reported and effectively communicated to communities
  - Solicit feedback on and assess the effectiveness of engagement strategies

# Example of Meaningful Community Engagement

## *Concept: Navigating cultural and linguistic barriers in community engagement*

- A state's Environmental Health Investigations Branch was made aware of **lead poisoning among Afghani immigrant children from imported cosmetics called “surma” or “kohl.”** Use of this makeup is a common cultural practice.

## *Approach*

- Interviewed community leaders to understand the issue
- Community leaders recruited participants for focus groups and field testing of the fact sheets in mosques and other community spaces
- The state developed seven fact sheets, each targeted to different immigrant and refugee populations using appropriate languages, terms, and images
- To raise awareness, an Afghan community leader and a local doctor also recorded a webinar in languages commonly spoken in Afghanistan



# **TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE FORUMS**

## **CLIMATE POLLUTION REDUCTION GRANTS**

U.S. Environmental Protection Agency

- Opportunity for peer-to-peer technical assistance, collaboration, and mentoring.
- Sharing of case studies, best practices, and lessons learned
- Forums will focus on key plan elements and sectors
- Facilitated and led by EPA subject matter experts and contractors
- Registrations were sent out to Lead Organizations and are open now

Kickoff Meeting	Frequency	Forum Topic	Topics to Cover
<b>Thursday, Sept 14, 2-3:30 PM ET</b>	Second Thursday of Every Month	<b>Climate Planning Analytics</b>	GHG Inventory, Co-Pollutant Inventory and Future Projections Benefits Analysis, GHG Emission Projections and Target Setting
<b>Monday, Sept 18, 2-3:30 PM ET</b>	Third Monday of Every Month	<b>Climate Planning Process</b>	Climate Planning Basics, Interagency and Stakeholder Coordination, Workforce Development, Leveraging other federal resources
<b>Tuesday, Sept 26, 2-3:30 PM ET</b>	Fourth Tuesday of Every Month	<b>Tribes and Territories</b>	Topics of interest to Tribes and Territories including Tribal and Territory GHG Inventories and GHG reduction measures
<b>Wednesday, Oct 4, 2-3:30 PM ET</b>	First Wednesday of Every Month	<b>Low-Income &amp; Disadvantaged Communities (LIDAC) in States and MSAs</b>	Meaningful Engagement, LIDAC Benefits Analysis
<b>Wednesday, Oct 11, 2-3:30 PM ET</b>	Second Wednesday of Every Month	<b>Electricity Generation Sector</b>	GHG reduction measures, Quantifying sector-based emission reductions
<b>Tuesday, Oct 17, 2-3:30 PM ET</b>	Third Tuesday of Every Month	<b>Industry Sector</b>	GHG reduction measures, Quantifying sector-based emission reductions
<b>Wednesday, Oct 25, 2-3:30 PM ET</b>	Fourth Wednesday of Every Month	<b>Transportation Sector</b>	GHG reduction measures, Quantifying sector-based emission reductions
<b>Thursday, Nov 2, 2-3:30 PM ET</b>	First Thursday of Every Month	<b>Commercial and Residential Buildings Sector</b>	GHG reduction measures, Quantifying sector-based emission reductions
<b>Tuesday, Nov 7, 2-3:30 PM ET</b>	First Tuesday of Every Month	<b>Agriculture/Natural and Working Lands Sector</b>	GHG reduction measures, Quantifying sector-based emission reductions
<b>Monday, Nov 13, 2-3:30 PM ET</b>	Second Monday of Every Month	<b>Waste and Materials Management Sector</b>	GHG reduction measures, Quantifying sector-based emission reductions

# Q & A

- Please enter questions via the chat box
- Please keep questions on-topic
- We are not able to answer questions about the implementation grants at this time